

# WHAT'S *New* in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers  
in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

## **MPDC HONORS TOP POLICE OFFICERS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AGENCY PARTNERS AND RESIDENTS**

The MPDC this past week honored approximately 300 outstanding police officers, civilian employees, agency partners and community members who have helped to make DC neighborhoods safer over the past year. The recognition came during the Department's 6th Annual Awards Ceremony, held December 14, at DAR Constitutional Hall in Northwest. This edition of "What's New in the MPDC" focuses on four of the top award winners. Other awards presented Wednesday included the Lifesaving Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal, for outstanding contributions; the Achievement Medal, for individual acts of skill or bravery; and the Unit Citation, for excellence by an entire MPD unit. Three PSAs of the Year – 605, 501 and 302 – were also recognized. The Blue Shield Medal, presented to members who are seriously, critically or fatally injured while in direct performance of police duties, was given posthumously to Officer James McBride, who died in a training accident in August. In addition, the Chief of Police Special Award was presented to community members who have excelled in supporting crime prevention, and the Chief's Award of Merit was given to members of other agencies who have assisted the MPDC in significant operations.

① Read the news release at:

<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=259000>

① The names of all award winners are listed in the 6th Annual Awards Ceremony program book. View it at:

[http://mpdc.dcc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1231,q,538387,mpdcNav\\_GID,1529,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dcc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1231,q,538387,mpdcNav_GID,1529,mpdcNav,|.asp)

## **DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR:**

### **DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER KAUFFMAN, VIOLENT CRIMES BRANCH**

Twelve years ago, Detective Kauffman realized his life-long dream of becoming a detective, when he was promoted and assigned to the 7th District Detectives' Office. About a year later, he was transferred to the Violent Crimes Branch, and has been investigating homicides ever since. A skillful investigator who always demonstrates an eagerness and capacity to learn, Detective Kauffman has maintained an overall average closure rate of 75 percent. His supervisors call him not only one of the best homicide detectives in the MPDC, but really one of the best in the nation. Detective Kauffman demonstrated his exceptional skills and tenacity in conducting an exhaustive, 18-month investigation into the disappearance and murder of Ms. Marion Fye, who was reported missing by her live-in boyfriend in December 2003. Through numerous interviews with friends and associates, Detective Kauffman was able to establish details about their relationship, and the fact that the victim had contacted the boyfriend at least four times since her reported disappearance. By continuing to talk with the boyfriend, the detective was able to get his consent to search their home, which yielded powerful evidence of a murder. He then used DNA testing, and the statements of other jail inmates, to further build the case. Eventually, the boyfriend confessed to the crime. What is so remarkable about the case is that Ms. Fye's body has never been recovered. The successful closure of a "no-body" homicide is extremely rare – only one other similar case has been recorded in MPDC history.

① Detective Kauffman was also promoted to sergeant this past week.

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR: OFFICER JAMES BURGESS, FIRST DISTRICT

Officer Burgess has distinguished himself through a number of activities – from aggressive patrols on the midnight watch, to training, to volunteering in the community. Over the past year, Officer Burgess has made an impressive number of arrests in PSA 101. Last February, for example, he and his partner apprehended two suspects who attempted to flee after they were observed loitering suspiciously near a tour bus. Upon apprehending the suspects, officers recovered a 12-gauge shotgun whose serial numbers had been removed. Last fall, Officer Burgess and his partner located a carjacked vehicle from Prince George's County and skillfully stopped and apprehended all three suspects in the vehicle – all without having to engage a vehicle pursuit or use their firearms. And when the problem of theft from auto became intolerable in PSA 101, Officer Burgess concentrated on identifying and apprehending career criminals in the neighborhood. His efforts contributed to a substantial reduction in auto thefts in his PSA. As a training officer, this 15-year veteran has consistently demonstrated skill and leadership. And he is always there to lend a hand to the community when it needs the help of the police on various neighborhood improvement projects.

- ① Both the Officer and Detective of the Year are granted the use of a take-home cruiser for the next 12 months.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: SHEILA BEAMAN, TESTING AND STANDARDS UNIT

While the work of Ms. Beaman may not be very high profile to the outside world, it is vitally important to the members of the MPDC – in particular those who are candidates for promotion. Over the past year, the Testing and Standards Unit developed and administered four internal selection processes: for Master Patrol Officer, Desk Sergeant, Investigator and Detective Grade One. Ms. Beaman served as Project Director on three of those processes. At the same time, she was busy preparing for the 2005 promotional processes for Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. This was, by far, the most aggressive schedule of selection and promotional processes in the MPDC in many years. Throughout it all, Ms. Beaman consistently demonstrated the willingness to take on additional responsibility and the ability to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Thanks to her efforts, promotional processes in the MPDC are occurring on schedule and according to the highest standards of fairness and integrity.

- ① Employee, Officer and Detective of the Year all receive a \$2,000 cash award.

## RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: RESERVE OFFICER JOSEPH POZELL, SECOND DISTRICT

For years, many people didn't even know that the MPDC even had Reserve Officers – a group of amazing people who donate their time and energy to supporting the police and making our neighborhoods safer. That changed on May 17th, 2005, the day Reserve Officer Joseph Pozell was accidentally struck by a vehicle and killed while directing traffic at the busy intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, NW, in Georgetown. Reserve Officer Pozell began his association with the MPDC in 1996, as a member of the volunteer Police Auxiliary Service. But Reserve Officer Pozell wanted to do more, and to give more. So in 2002, he joined the uniformed Reserve Corps. Soon after that, he assumed his regular post at Wisconsin and M. He said he began directing traffic because it was "a good way to do something for the community." And the community truly loved Reserve Officer Pozell and appreciated his work on behalf of them. To honor the service of all Reserve Officers, the MPDC created the Reserve Officer of the Year Medal. This first year, the medal was presented posthumously to Joseph Pozell.

- ① To remember Joseph Pozell's service and sacrifice, the Reserve Officer of the Year Medal has been named in his honor.

## NEWS & NOTES

**50 New Sergeants Promoted.** Chief Ramsey on Friday afternoon swore in 50 new sergeants during promotional ceremonies at Gallaudet University. The former officers and detectives were recently promoted and have completed their first-line supervisory course. The new sergeants are being assigned to operational duties in the seven police districts.

**2005 Holiday SoberRide Under Way.** From now through January 1, 2005, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is offering free taxicab rides home to DC-area residents who have had too much to drink, through its annual Holiday SoberRide program. The service is offered from 8 pm to 4 am every day. To request a SoberRide cab, call (800) 200-TAXI. Or learn more online at <http://www.soberride.com>.

### DATA BOX

Homicides as of 12/16/05  
◆ 2005: 190  
◆ 2004: 189  
◆ % Change: +0.5%  
◆ Closure Rate: 58.4% (111 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 12/10/05  
◆ Total: 930  
◆ Drugs: 187  
◆ Weapons: 30  
◆ Robbery: 5  
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33

Juvenile Activity week end. 12/10/05  
◆ Arrests: 61  
◆ Curfew Violations: 31  
◆ Truants: 45

Firearm Recoveries as of 12/14/05  
◆ December: 104  
◆ 2005 Total: 2,265

Traffic Fatalities as of 12/16/05  
◆ 2005: 45  
◆ 2004: 43  
◆ % Change: +4.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com).

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